

REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 16-29 and 37-41 are currently withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1 and 30 are amended. Claims 1 and 30 are independent claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 3-8, 14, 15, 32, 35, and 36 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 9, 11-13, 30, 31, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,606,117 to Windle (hereafter "Windle"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites, as an element of the claimed camera, a detecting unit that detects satisfaction of a predetermined photographing condition. Claim 1 further recites that, when the detecting unit detects the satisfaction of the photographing condition, the timing generator automatically, i.e., without user intervention, outputs a timing signal.

In Windle, on the other hand, the user himself detects satisfaction of a photographing condition (e.g., whether a person's head is aligned correctly). In accordance with satisfaction of the photographing condition, Windle teaches that the user presses a shutter or release button, thereby causing the timing signal to be generated.

As such, Windle fails to teach or suggest that satisfaction of a photographing condition is detected by an element of the camera without any operation by the user of the camera, and outputting a timing signal without any operation by the user when such satisfaction is detected. Thus, Applicants submit that Windle fails to disclose each and every feature of claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 30 recites automatically detecting satisfaction of a photographing condition, and automatically outputs a timing signal when the satisfaction is automatically detected. As described above, the user of Windle's camera must detect satisfaction of the photographing condition and press the shutter or release button accordingly. As such Windle fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 30.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 30 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2, 9, 11-13, 31, 33, and 34 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1 and 30. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Windle in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,881,127 to Isoguchi et al. (hereafter "Isoguchi"). Applicants respectfully submit that Isoguchi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Windle set forth above in connection with independent claim 1. Specifically, the Examiner relies on Isoguchi merely to teach an illuminator for illuminating a subject (see Office Action at page 6). Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

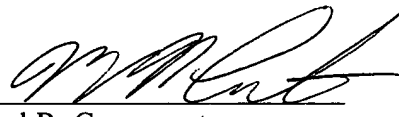
Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' representative, Jason Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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